Application No.: Divisional of 10/176,083

Attorney Docket No. 20279.04

Art Unit: 3673

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-16. Claims 17 and 18 remain

pending in the present application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the Office action dated June 2, 2003 of Parent Application Serial No. 10/176,083, the

Examiner required an election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121 prior to an examination on the

merits of application. The separate species of the claimed invention are identified by the Examiner

as the species of: Figures 1-4; Figure 5; Figure 6; Figure 7-10; and Figures 11-12.

In compliance with the Examiner's requirement, Applicant provisionally elects without

traverse for further prosecution the embodiment of the present invention illustrated in Figures 11 and

12, Claims 1, 17, and 18.

In an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled the

original Claims 2-16, drawn to the non-elected species. Notwithstanding, it should be noted that

under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application

directed to the non-elected subject matter. In fact, a separate divisional application is concurrently

filed herewith to cover the embodiments of Figs 7-10. The divisional application is identified as

Attorney Docket No. 20279.03. The embodiment of Applicant's invention as illustrated in Figs. 1-4

is covered by the allowed claims of application Serial No. 10/115,896, filed April 5, 2002. The

embodiment of Applicant's invention as illustrated in Fig. 6 is covered by the claims of co-pending

parent application Serial No. 10/176,083.

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Applicant respectfully contends that the safety sheet/blanket as set forth by the present claims is patentably distinguishable from the references cited of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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